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Rev. Pinkney and supporters celebrate the victory outside the Courthouse /daymonjhartley.com

BENTON HARBOR, MI. The people of Benton Harbor achieved a tremendous victory on May 14, 2007. Rev. Edward Pinkney will not go to prison. This victory could not have occurred had the Benton Harbor community not stood up for Pinkney against representatives of powerful corporations like Whirlpool and their corrupt local government. By its courageous stance, the people of Benton Harbor have set an example for every American.

Hundreds of letters of support for Pinkney were sent to the Judge. The letters came from Benton Harbor, from Michigan, Ohio, and other states throughout the country. The show of public support, seen also in the unprecedented attendance in the courtroom during the trial, was unquestionably a key factor in convincing the Judge to not put Pinkney in prison.

"When a judge talks about public support, as he did in the courtroom today," said Attorney Buck Davis, "then indeed the public support has made a difference."

"It's a victory that the people stood up," said Belinda Brown. "We're looking at a different community now. People are tired of being pushed down and kicked out. People are ready to take a stand for what's right. It shows the importance of people being involved. Pastor Pinkney deserves five stars. He has given hope to the community." Alphonso said, "They want Rev. Pinkney to be quiet to hinder him from reaching people and making them go in the right direction for this community." (Continued on back)

VICTORY FOR THE PEOPLE OF BENTON HARBOR REV. PINKNEY WON'T GO TO PRISON

(Continued from front page).....

Benton Harbor residents deeply understand that Whirlpool is the political force behind everything that happens, and that the local, state and federal governments have become centers of corporate power. Dorothy Pinkney, overjoyed that her husband will remain home, said, "I think it is very clear who the enemy is in Benton Harbor. It's the same nationwide. We're fighting the same fight on different levels."

The next step forward is to build a national movement to take over the giant corporations and make them publicly owned property. This would allow for people to create a society where the world's abundance is distributed to all by need rather than by money. — From the Editors

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Some courtroom supporters/daymonjhartley.com

REV EDWARD PINKNEY : "I told the judge I passed the polygraph examination. Prosecutor Gerald Vignansky does not have a single witness who could pass the polygraph examination. Not Brenda Fox, Rosie Miles, nor Earlean Wiley. The Foster's cannot pass the polygraph examination. Not one single witness, nor the prosecutor himself could pass the polygraph examination. This was a tremendous victory for the people of Benton Harbor. We are still not through whipping on Berrien County. The media is doing their part to frame the mind set of the public. The people of Benton Harbor have to accept this declaration of war against suffering people."

VOICES IN SUPPORT OF REV. PINKNEY JUSTICE FOR BENTON HARBOR



Detroit brought a busload of supporters. Marian Kramer of Michigan Welfare Rights Organization is speaking.

"People told me I should stay away from Rev. Pinkney and out of politics. I asked them -- have you ever met him and stood face to face and found out the truth? They said, no, I haven't. The more that we open up their eyes with papers like the People's Tribune, the more they'll open up. "

—Lenette Evans, St. Joseph

"There was a lot of injustice throughout the trial. Thank God that he wasn't sent up. That's a job well done. A lot of us are rejoicing."

— Marquette Coates, Benton Harbor

"I agree the judge was being as careful as he could. He wanted to continue to live in Berrien County, and be a little just. Under the circumstances, this is the best we could have hoped for. — Ben, Lansing Peace Educ. Center

"It's unpleasant to admit that Whirlpool is a serious problem for the people of Benton Harbor. — Mr. S. Clark

"I'm pleased so far. It's a victory. The judge was very careful. I have a feeling that he did this because the powers that be don't want to make Reverend Pinkney a martyr."

— Pastor Mary Gault, Battle Creek

"We're in an era of extreme racist, corporate fascism. Benton Harbor has got to be one of its kind geographicaly in the whole country. There's this one bridge -- with very rich white people over there (St. Joseph), and extremely poor Black people over here. Whirlpool is in charge of everything. People want to bring Whirlpool down. I'd like to know how many people in the lower rungs of the power structure really know what is going on. Do they really understand that Whirlpool is ultimately their boss, and runs everything in the county" — Libby Hunter, Lansing

"When so many people believe anything they read, no matter how outlandish, how is it that they can't accept something that's completely true? Whirlpool is taking over the city of Benton Harbor and kicking out the citizens? — Joseph, Benton Harbor.



March across bridge to St. Joseph prior to sentencing/daymonjhartley.com